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In East Timor, There Are Only Little Problems

THE ENEMY NOW IS NO LONGER GPK BUT THE PROFIT-SEEKERS

Even now, there are still accusations that Indonesia is violating human rights in East Timor, that legal processes don't yet exist, and even that killings are still continuing. Foreign elements say that the East Timorese are starving, and that there are no freedoms for the people.

Just recently, there was the astonishing "European Parliament Resolution". Even though the head of the ASEAN Parliamentary Delegation, Kharis Suhud (who by coincidence comes from Indonesia) was able to neutralize it by explanations and clarifications, there were nevertheless those who kept tot heir opinions and insisted on bringing the resolution before tne European Parliament.

In Nairobi, Kenya, the same thing occurred, according to the Minister for Women's Affairs, Lasyiah Sutanto SH, with the issue raised by delegations from Vanuatu and Angola, among others.

Nevertheless, according to Albert Hasibuan when he accepted an invitation from the Australian government not long ago, there was a positive attitude about the fact that GPK cases were beginning to be tried in ocurt. This attitude may have been connected with the courageousness of the Indonesian ambassador to kangaroo country, August Marpaung, SH, who openly explained the situation in East Timor in a direct meeting with the press there.

August Marpaung has an advantage over other ambassadors, because he participated at the time of the UN debates as head of the Permanent Indonesian delegation to that world body. The result of the "hard work" of August Marpaung is evident--Prime Minister Bob Hawke has accepted Indonesian governance of East Timor. The question now is, "Can't the step of the Indonesian ambassador to Australia be followed by our other friends?"

Must See

The visit of Albert Hasibuan in his position as a member of the Third Commission in the DPR which handles law and justice was crucial, particularly when it is recalled that Albert, in addition to his parliamentary role, is also a lawyer who often works on human rights issues. For this reason, Albert felt that it was necessary to see the real situation with his own eyes. These voices are still there, but they are growing fainter. In the beginning, the outside world called for Indonesian troops to be withdrawn from East Timor and for the East Timorese to determine their own fate. But it was the people of East Timor who asked to be accepted as a province of Indonesia. Consequently, the Indonesian government apparatus has to work there, because that request was fulfilled.

The situation in East Timor has to be seen directly, because if not, there will always be the impression that the war is still going on there. "In East Timor, there are no longer big problems, only minor ones," Governor Ir. Mario Viegas Carrascalao told Albert Hasibuan in his office.

Schools have been completed in each village; junior high schools, senior high schools, and economic high schools are in place. At this moment, there are about 128,000 schoolchildren, 11,000 of them students in technical high schools. A teacher training institute has been established and in two years, the region will be producing enough primary school teachers to meet its own needs.

"But we don't yet have a university--to overcome this, we send our children to several areas of Indonesia but not to Irian Jaya. We chose this way so that

children could rapidly adjust themselves to the level of development in the area where they went to school," he said. "This way, you don't have to send us high school graduates who want to serve East Timor, " he said [in other words, East Timorese themselves can do the job.]

With enthusiasm, he spoke of agricultural developments in his region. In the near future, East Timor will be self-sufficient in rice. There are now paved roads throughout the entire province. Health services and doctors are there, and the province will soon be supplying its own paramedics. "So there's no need to make a fuss any more, just let us enjoy this development," he said.

It's difficult to compare Porto times with the present, because there is no reference point, said a regional governmental official. Before, for example, basic data on the number of schools, length of roads, and hospital infrastructure didn't exist.

"Because the government of Portugal ran away from East Timor in 1975 and the data that was there was perhaps deliberately lost, it's difficult to convince those who are making all the noise, because they are always clamoring for written data.

The education in East Timor before was as follows: only 326 primary schools with 699 teachers; four Ciclu Preparatori (junior high schools) with 30 teachers; one industrial and commercial school (five year program) with 14 teachers; one teacher's training school; one Collegio for women (four years), and the schools run by the Catholic mission.

REgarding the accusations of outside elements who aren't happy with the integration of East Timor into Indonesia, Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao says, "Human rights are important, but is this only in East Timor? What is the difference with other areas?"

"It's clear that there are no violations of human rights in East Timor by the government. If there are abuses by individual officials, can this be attributed to the government?" he asked. Those who violate the law are tried in court, those who violate their civil service codes are punished by PP 30/1980 which regulates disciplinary measures for civil servants.

Special Handling

But because it is admitted that the area was just recently released from colonial shackles, government offiicals should carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the situation in East Timor. "Special handling is still needed," says Carrascalao.

Other officials say the same thing. The special characteristics of East Timor need a humanitarian approach, because the East Timorese still think, "If the boss is good, the Republic is good; if the boss isn't good, neither is the Republic."

On people not having freedom, the Governor said it depends on what your vantage point is. The same thing was said by the bupati of Ermera, Thomas Goncalves, and the bupati of Liquisa, Jaime dos Romidous de Olivera. As long as they've been [in power], ther have been no limits on citizens going anywhere. There are regulations and conditions, of course; for example, if you leave the province, you have to have a travel permit (surat jalan). "But this is true everywhere, and even a member of the DPR needs a surat jalan if he wants to travel," said the Governor to Albert Hasibuan, laughing.

Killings? The governor repeated the question when asked about accusations of killings in his province. "It was Fretilin who did the killings when there was a civil war," said Thomas Goncalves who had taken part in the struggle

opposing that cruelty.

If you want to know what the region has experienced, please visit and see for yourself rather than just getting an explanation. "Because you'll never believe it unless you see for yourself."

Albert himself admitted that he had listened to the voices from abroad, that Dili was threatened by the danger of war. But in fact, it's secure, just as it is now. Albert was also surprised when he walked around the city at night to see trucks carrying women who'd finished selling in the market. "If it was not safe, the women certainly wouldn't be brave·enough to go home at night to their own towns, " he remarked to the owner of a store where a truck awaited its passengers.

Atauro

Since 1981, some 6000 people have been settled on the island of Atauro off the coast of Dili. Now 1165 are left, icnluding children who have been born there at the rate of six to eight a month. According to Dr. Erie Andar, stationed there with the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), the people there fall into several categories. These include those suspected of having been involved with or supported the GPK, and those who may face vengeance from the people for their deeds. If there is strong proff, the cases are brought to court; otherwise, the people will be returned home.

To educate the inhabitants, the jsutice team from the Indonesian police are continually at work. After seeing the inhabitants last 14 August, Albert asked if there wasn't a problem between the indigenous inhabitants and the new settlers.

Albert's question was well-founded, because the standard of living of the settlers is better than that of the native inhabitants, and there are no barriers between the newcomers and the natives.

A security officer said, "What we've done here isn't the same as if these people were some kind of prisoner. It's to prevent them from being hurt by people trying to seek revenge for what happened during the civil war. Even though people are sent back, they ask assistance to guarantee their security. Because these people were used to being enemies with one another in the past, and up until now, it still colors their lives," said one officer.

Dr. Erie Andar said in fact there was no need to suspect injustice on the island of Atauro, because she often gives detailed reports to the International Red Cross and PMI as the donor organizations responsible. On the island, the settlers' lives are protected, their education is taken care of, and there is intensive health care. "There's no need to worry about their situation," said Dr. Erie, a graduate of Universitas Diponegoro, Semarang, to Albert Hasibuan.

Development and Security

The member of the Third COmmission in the DPR didn't just see the city of Dili from the perspective of law, justice, and human rights. He also saw the development and security in Liquisa, 36 km from Dili. All along the way, he saw people busy with preparations for the 40th anniversary of the Independence Proclamation. The activity in Liquisa was far different from other areas, because this kabupaten has 23 villages, each one with their own booth and display of a development exhibit. Each booth was set up like a traditional house, and each villager showed his ability in dancing while beating a musical instrument. "The people here really love this kind of thing. Because the love of festivities was implanted in them by the colonialists, for them it's not a problem to dance night and day like this," said one kabupaten official. They liked festivals before, but their standard of living wasn't good enough. Especially now that they have reaped the fruits of devel-

opment, their desire to celebrate has of course risen accordingly, said the bupati of Liquisa, Jaime dos Romidous Olivera.

This bupati thinks that this tradition must be very slowly stemmed while at the same time making the people understand that there are limits to festivities. "Everything in its own time," he said.

The Buapti,who since Porto times has been in Oecussi, admits that it is as if his district had been transformed by magic. Every village has an elementary school, fresh water, and roads. Thanks to coffee, the development has been rapid. In addition, there is also a potential for tourism, and there are beautiful beaches.

Security is guaranteed. "I certainly wouldn't be willing to bring my people from their villages if there was any danger of a security threat, or if I was afraid of their possessions being stolen," he said. He spoke of activities in his area to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Indonesian independence, such as a horse race and a motorcycle race. "We even have a swimming contest for dogs and chickens that no one else has," he said laughing. "Dogs are brought out to sea and dropped and whichever reaches the beach first wins. The same thing is done with chickens."

The bupati of Ermeara, Thomas Goncalves, who by chance happened to be in Liquisa, had prepared his district for competitions with neighboring kabupatens, just like other bupatis.

No freedom? What times are you speaking of? If you mean before, its true, but now you can see [things are different.] Has there been any survey of the man on the street or of buses going by?" he asked.

Today there is no longer a problem in his district. The only problem is how to increase the participation of the people in development. He touched on the fondness of the people for cockfighting, and said it was difficult to prevent. the reason Thomas Concalves gave was the progress in technology that the people are enjoying, namely television. If we tell them that cockfighting is forbidden, they answer, "Why is cockfighting forbidden when people-fighting is encouraged on TV?" So it's difficult to stop, and we can't stop it, but we cna nevertheless try to gradually reduce it.

Throughout his trip, both overland at night and by helicopter from Baucau to Lospalos on his last day, Albert Hasibuan remarked on the advancement East Timor had made. And there were no longer any security problems. He went around the city of Lospalos with this correspondent for just under one and a half hours, and there was nothing to give the impression that things were insecure. Children in school uniforms were playing in the town center in preparation for the celebration of 17 August [Indonesian Independence Day]. Scouts were setting up their tents on the side of the town square, while town residents were marching in columns to the accompaniment of traditional music.

It was amazing to see that goods to meet everyday needs were no different than one would find in Jakarta. Compared with Tarakan in East Kalimantan, there was much more available in Lospalos. Indeed, meeting daily needs is no longer a problem.

What <u>is</u> a problem is raising the standard of living of farmers so that they cna afford to buy what they need. Challenges to progress and development have come from all sides. In Porto times, buying things was difficult because the boat bringing provisions for all of East Timor only came once a year, and the same thing with agricultural produce--it was only bought when the Portuguese troops were changed. (?)

Except for the bupatis ofr Ermera and Liquisa, officials in East Timor admit that GPK is still around, but they aren't able to affect the direction of development. As Governor Ir. Carrascalao says, the enemy now is no longer the GPK but we ourselves are even more dangerous. He meant that there are officials in the government apparatus who are only after profits. He quoted the Coordinator of the Central Anti-Corruption office (OPSTIBPUS) E.Y. Kanter, SH, that only about 40 percent of development funds actually reach the people. At the beginning of his administration in September 1983, the governor, a graduate of Lisbon, confronted an apparatus that was paralyzed, without direction. There were even people on his staff who tried to obstruct things in a variety of ways. The district level government didn't function, the district-level parliament didn't work, of 11 supposed bureaus, he only met four. This has all been overcome, and the people with him now are truly dedicated to their work.

He himself gets to the office at 7 am and works until 11 pm. But he complains that there are still those who are after profit. For example, there was a development project that only cost Rp.7 million, but it was registered as costing Rp.30 million. "In two years on the job, I have written more than 3000 memos, and memos here have to be detailed. Sometimes I think, how can I use bahasa Indonesia in such a way that my subordinates will understand"?

No one can doubt what has been achieved in East Timor, but so that the results cna become known, we msut be open. and after nine years, there must be an evaluation of the situation so that policies in various sectors can be observed.

But the approach must be humanitarian and cautious. Don't forget that East Timor is a region that didn't ex perience the first and second five-year development plans but went directly into the third five-year plan (Repelita III). As an example, the "hoe" was only introduced in 1976. So given their shock in entering a development era, special attention is still needed.

After hearing the opinions of several officials, this correspondent feels that certains sensitive issues which are easily spread should be avoided from the outset so as to prevent what has happened in Irian Jaya--for example spreading another religion, javanization, and so on. On the question of "native sons", Mario Carrascalao said he didn't agree. "Indonesia is a unified country, and the money for development of East Timor is the money of all the Indonesian people, so every son and daughter of Indonesia has the right to serve here."

But he said, don't send us people who don't want to work; send us those who want to raise the East Timorese from their backwardness. Don't send us what we already have, such as high school graduates.

To confront the outside world which is still raising the situation of East Timor, we need a complete package of materials on the territory that formerly was oppressed by the Portuguese. For this, several people suggested that we send our own ambassadors who are about to be posted to foreign countries to East Timor so they can explain what they have seen themselves to those who are always making a fuss.

"If ambassadors of freindly countries frequently visit East Timor, why do our own ambassadors come so rarely?" asked one official here. By chance, the Dutch abmassador vanDongen was at that very moment in the 27th province. While he was in Dili, Ambassador van Dongen wnet out very morning and came back at night, visiting several places in East Timor, both by car and by helicopter.

Protocal officials and security officers were at their wit's end with the energy of their VIP guest. "He set his own schedule and the places he wanted to go," declared an official. For example, according to his

schedule, he was supposed to go north, but he asked to go west. The Dutch ambassador was in Timor 10-15 August 1985. He looked at everything--transmigration, irrigation, places where there was concern over human rights violations. "He was amazed to see the rice paddies at Maliana" said one person who went with him.

"The time for being open has already begun and diplomats from abroad and other delegations should witness the development that has been achieved in East Timor so that they can better explain it," said Albert Hasibuan.
...
The tasks in East Timor are still imposing--to continue with development and raise the standard of living of the people. Abroad, there are still voices which critcize the policies of the Indonesian government, and these must be heeded, even if they will get fainter as time goes by. "Indonesia is my country, the land where I shed my blood" is a theme heard throughout East Timor, and as the beloved red-and-white [Indoesian flag] waves in the blue sky, there isn't a single person who can take it down.